

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (original) A method for washing produce comprising the steps of:

providing a washing section having a washing unit disposed thereon so as to position spray nozzles above said washing section;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said washing section and adapted to transport produce through said washing unit from an entry point of said washing section to a terminating point of said washing section;

wherein said conveyor belt apparatus further comprises produce receiving baskets adapted to receive said produce and to expose a top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce receiving baskets comprises an upper ring that is dimensioned to receive a single item of said produce therein and that is open at an upper portion thereof to permit said single item of said produce to be placed therein, a base ring having a smaller diameter than said upper ring and that is open at a lower portion thereof and support members projecting from said base ring to said upper ring;

harvesting produce from a field; placing said produce in said produce receiving baskets; passing said produce receiving baskets with said produce therein through said washing unit; and

exposing said top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce is lettuce.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a loading section pivotally coupled to said washing section at said entry point of said washing section;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said loading section and adapted to transport produce along said loading section from an entry point of said loading section to a terminating point of said loading section and from there to said entry point of said washing section; loading said produce on said conveyor belt apparatus on said loading section; and transporting said produce along said loading section to said washing section.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing an upward angled ascending section positioned at said terminating point of said washing section, after said washing unit;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said ascending section and adapted to transport produce along said ascending section from an entry point of said ascending section to a terminating point of said ascending section; and

transporting said produce upward along said ascending section.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said conveyor belt apparatus located on said ascending section further comprises a plurality of steps located thereon and dimensioned to prevent said produce from falling backward as it travels upward along said ascending section.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

providing a downward angled dumping section positioned at said terminating point of said upward angled ascending section; providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said dumping section and adapted to transport produce along said dumping section from said terminating point of said ascending section to a terminating point of said dumping section; transporting said produce along said dumping section to a terminating point of said dumping section; and

dumping said produce from said terminating point of said dumping section into a receptacle.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a trailer coupled to said washing section.

Remarks

I. Specification Corrections

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction of the title, abstract, and related application description. Applicants have corrected each of these portions of the specification. With respect to the title and related application, Applicants have utilized the precise language proposed by the Examiner.

II. Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. Section 112(first paragraph)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending Claims 1-6 based on 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner acknowledged that the application was enabling for washing produce by exposing a top portion and a bottom portion to spray emanating from each of spray